FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY INTERNATIONAL
ETHIOPIA

PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIVITY SUBMISSION

TITLE II, PVO II, 202(e)

FY 2000

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 1999, FHI/Ethiopia submitted a five year (FY 1999 – 2003) Development Activity Proposal for the chronically food insecure area of South Gondar Zone, new target woredas in North Wollo and Benishangul Gumuz Region to USAID Title II Program funding. The overall objective of this Development Activity Proposal (DAP) is to improve food security among vulnerable households on a sustainable basis. This objective is met through increased agricultural production, household income, improved health status and maintenance of the natural resource base. Program interventions in fodder production, natural resource management, crop productivity and diversification, and community health and water are designed to support the four pillars that lead to the attainment of the overall objective.

USAID has committed itself to finance the initial three years of the DAP with pending approval for the rest two years through submission of DAP amendment. This Previously Approved Activity (PAA) is prepared on the basis that most of the activities anticipated for implementation in FY 2000 are not altered significantly. The lessons FHI/Ethiopia learned from its operation in FY 1999 have been incorporated in this proposal to reflect the changing policy environment as well as increase the focus of program intervention in FY 2000. The selective use of fertilizer and improved seeds in response to the real economic return of farmers, improving the capacity of local institutions to increasingly take responsibility in program implementation as well as the monitoring of gender sensitiveness of program activities are areas where alterations are made in the PAA. A stronger emphasis is also placed in promoting low cost and small-scale irrigation projects that enhance productivity among targeted farmers.

Consistent with the changing reality of program implementation, an 11% decrease in the overall monetization budget is anticipated in FY 2000. This revision was made by taking the historical record of project implementation and the capacity of development partners. However, a 2% increase in the recommended level of 202(e) Grant Budget is anticipated for FY 2000.

The total quantity of commodity for distribution is similar to the DAP proposal. Activities that require commodities for implementation through food-for-work are at the same level with no anticipated revision in the ration size.

Program Component (note each technical area and the AER categories within)	No. Benef's	Approved DAP Level (MT) for FY 2000	Requested PAA Level (MT) for FY 2000	Recommended DAP 202e ($) for FY 2000	Requested PAA 202e ($) for FY 2000	Total Budget ($) from comprehensive budget	Non-FFP contrib'n ($) from comp'sive budget
Food-for-work workers	22,318	3,667	3,667	259,953	264,879		
Monetization						2,811,528	
Wheat			10,029				8,251
Oil		2,526	1,324				10,918
Total	22,318	6,193	15,020	259,953	264,879	2,811,528	19,169

Note: The request quantity of commodity for monetization includes estimated budget for the Monetization Project. Proceeds from empty container sales are anticipated to finance part of the Monetization Project cost.

I. Progress in Activity Implemented

A. Follow-up of FY 1998 Title II Review

While approving the three year Development Activity Proposal (DAP) for Food for the Hungry in May 1998, the USAID mission has raised some programmatic and technical concerns that need to be addressed during program implementation. The following section reports on progresses or changes made as a result of the recommendations forwarded to FHI/Ethiopia.

1. USAID Mission support FHI/Ethiopia's initiative to work with the Organization for Rehabilitation and Development in Amhara (ORDA) in implementing integrated food security program at Gubalafto Woreda. FHI/Ethiopia will strengthen the partnership with ORDA by providing training, technical, performance monitoring and evaluation support to the latter. USAID mission requested FHI/Ethiopia to submit a sub-agreement with ORDA and work with the US PVO PACT to strengthen the institutional capacity of ORDA. In relation to this, FHI/Ethiopia conducted a series of consultative meetings with the senior management of ORDA. To date the sub-grantee agreement was designed and sent to FHI office at Arizona for comments and further input. The signing of this important document will be finalized soon before commencing operation in the project area. In addition, the initial contact with PACT was made to integrated our effort in building the capacity of ORDA. The plan to jointly develop a concrete plan of action was suspended for sometime as a result of uncertainty in getting sufficient funding for ORDA.

2. The mission recommended that FHI/Ethiopia should focus on enabling the MOH to overtake the responsibility of conducting the outreach activities by its own. The mission's recommendation is acceptable and FHI/Ethiopia is planning to hand over this responsibility by providing motor cycles, essential medicines, cold chains and others. The purchase of these important items will be made when the current cash flow stabilizes. According to the agreement reached by both parties, FHI/Ethiopia's support for expanding the outreach program stops early next year.

3. In six of the targeted Peasant Administrations in Lay Gayint Woreda, FHI/Ethiopia's program activities overlap with CPAR while in Tach Gayint Save the Children UK operates in the Low land Peasant Administrations. GTZ is operational in all three Woredas by collaborating with government line departments. NGO overlap particularly in the same target areas and its subsequent effect on the reputation of involved NGOs has been a concern for the Mission. FHI/Ethiopia promised to closely coordinate with the other NGOs to avoid any criticism from government officials. To this effect, both FHI/Ethiopia and CPAR formed a joint technical committee to study the possibility of dividing the Peasant Administrations or sub-villages and standardizing the approaches to avoid conflicting messages reaching the community. The committee, after discussing the different alternatives with the community, recommended the appropriate way of dividing the target Peasant Administrations and areas of common focus for the two NGOs. The study report was then commented upon by both organizations and submitted to Woreda and Zonal officials for approval. Operation in these Peasant Administrations was started after receiving approval.

4. The re-registration of FHI with the Ministry of Justice has been finalized. FHI is now registered to work in Ethiopia for the next five years.

USAID mission recommended FHI/Ethiopia to identify new areas in Benishagul Region to implement Title II assisted interventions. FHI/Ethiopia plans to send a team of experts to the region to make a rapid socio-economic study and prepare a development proposal. USAID/Ethiopia Mission will be informed about the study and any progress made in this regard.

B. FY 1999 Activity Completion to Date

IR1: Increased Agricultural Production

Most of the planned activities to increase agricultural production have been started and reached different stages during the last six months. For some of the activities undone, financial limitation was the most important factor that explains the low level of performance. FHI/Ethiopia and other Cooperating Sponsors faced major monetization problems in the first half of FY'99. The oil market in Ethiopia was flooded with imported oil from the Far East and developed countries in September and October, 1998. Worsening the situation was Title III vegetable oil provided to the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) was out for sale. As a result, the planned oil monetization was suspended because there was no potential buyer. The Cooperating Sponsors had to wait until most of the oil suppliers sale out their stocks. During this time there was severe shortage of cash to run the programs.

In spite of the difficulties faced as a result of monetization problems, FHI/Ethiopia made significant effort to accomplish most of the planned activities. During the past six months, emphasis was given to training of farmers and extension works. Preparation was also made to distribute inputs. This includes the selection of beneficiaries, demonstration sites and related activities.

For lack of sufficient resources, the purchase of veterinary equipment and hand tools was delayed. Introducing improved livestock breeds was not totally carried out as there was difficulty in getting the breeds from a Livestock Center. However, the purchase and distribution of veterinary medicine was canceled because there was enough stock at the Ministry of Agriculture.

During the first six months, attention was also given to the study and design of traditional irrigation schemes that will be upgraded when funds are made available. Feasibility study and technical design for two sites were completed. In anticipation of the existing cash flow problem to continue for some time, FHI/E plans to purchase all construction materials during the rainy season and start construction immediately after the rain stops.

In Tach Gayint and Simada, the distribution of root crop seeds, vegetable seeds, and agricultural tools, especially sickles, were moderately accomplished. Regarding root crops, potato has been replicating very well among farmers. More and more farmers are requesting for the seed.

By and large, almost all activities planned for the first half of the year in agricultural extension in all projects were accomplished in accordance with plan. The under accomplishments in some activities is attributed to financial limitations and unavailability of the inputs in domestic markets.

a) IR2: Increased Income

Efforts have been made to affect income indicators through interventions in agriculture, health, and natural resource management. Particularly, the distribution of inputs such as vegetable seeds, potato, and onion will help raise household income through the sale of surplus products. During

the first six months of FY'99, seed multiplication for potato continued in three centers. Distribution of onion seed, carrots and other vegetables was made through Service Cooperatives. Some activities were shifted to the second half of the year.

Nursery activities in the three projects continued during the reporting period. Both tree and fodder species were produced that will be distributed to individual farmers and specific communities for plantation. Farmers who planted eucalyptus trees in the previous years have sold matured trees or used them for construction of houses.

b) IR3: Improved Health Status

To improve the rural people's access to clean water, FHI/Ethiopia has constructed six springs, 5 wells and repaired existing water facilities. As a result, the number of households receiving potable water has increased. It is expected that the communities who have access to water will raise their consumption level in the future as FHII/Ethiopia's health educators are teaching them on personal hygiene and environmental sanitation.

The community health program accorded high priority to training of community based family planning promoters. After training, these volunteers were provided with different contraceptives for distribution to interested community members. In Lay Gayint, the family planning promoters held discussions with adults to create awareness on available options to control child birth. These sessions were followed by forming a group of clients who are interested to try some of the family planning techniques.

Nutritional counseling and growth monitoring, education on the use of ORS, and demonstration of weaning food activities were accomplished according to plan. The goal of deworming of 10% of children from 2 to 9 years of age only partially met.

c) IR4: Increased Natural Resource Base Management

In Lay Gayint, some of the soil conservation activities during the past six months were under accomplished mainly because the Wereda Ministry of Agriculture office was undertaking free community participation works, and the project had to wait until it finishes the work. Check dam construction and work site access road construction and maintenance activities were accomplished according to plan.

In Lay Gayint and Tach Gayint, there is an innovative start regarding farmers' training.
The projects started to train farmers in natural resource management and agricultural extension in their locality with out any payment.

In afforestation program, very limited activities were planned for the period in all projects. Most of the activities in afforestation (e.g. planting and replanting, pitting and re-pitting, weeding and cultivation) are normally done during the coming rainy season. All of the nursery activities are on track on the first half of the year in all three projects.

It is very encouraging to see farmers interested to have their own individual nurseries for seedling

production. FHI/Ethiopia has started to make a gradual move from eucalyptus to fodder and multi

purpose tree species. FHI/Ethiopia will not be providing eucalyptus seedlings in the future as more and more farmers start to establish their own small nurseries, which will be used to raise eucalyptus, fodder and multi purpose tree seedlings.

II. Lessons Learned and Program Changes

During the implementation of integrated food security programs in South Gondar over the past years, FHI/Ethiopia has learned the following lessons.

Crop Productivity and Diversification

FHI/Ethiopia has been promoting the use of fertilizer and improved seeds to increase crop yield on small holder farming. Service Cooperatives were instrumental to distribute, manage and revolve fertilizer credit. Fertilizer application, as a result, has increased from 275 Quintals[1] in 1997 to 1,275 Quintals in 1998. Likewise, the distribution of improved seeds rose from 30 Quintals to 240 Quintals in the same year[2].

Consistent with increased use of fertilizer and better seeds, the yield for different crops have shown significant variation. With the application of fertilizer and improved seeds the yield per hectare for wheat increased four times compared to the traditional farming where local seed is used without fertilizer. Yield for teff, sorghum and barely was doubled as a result of combining the local seed with fertilizer. Table 1 below also indicates the variation in the economic profit between the traditional and modern farming systems. The farmer maximizes his economic profit by producing more wheat using fertilizer and improved seed than teff and barely. The economic return from potato production is also significant. The low return from sorghum can be explained by the general lack of improved variety in the area.

Comparison in Economic Profit

Between Traditional and Modern Farming Systems

Table 1

	(1) Traditional* Farming				
	Wheat	Teff	Sorghum	Barley	Potato
Yield per ha. (Quintal)	6	4	7	6	40

[1] Quintal = 100 kg
[2] Source: Project Annual Reports

Price per Quintal (Birr)	145	160	130	145	50
Value (Birr)	870	640	910	870	2000
Less : Seed price	218	48	13	181	10
Economic Profit	652	592	897	689	1990
	(2) Modern Farming**				
Yield per ha. (Quintal)	25	8	12	15	70
Price per Quintal (Birr)	145	160	130	145	50
Value (Birr)	3625	1280	1560	2175	3500
Less: Seed price	509	48	13	181	10
Cost of fertilizer	361	361	285	361	361
Economic Profit	2755	871	1262	1633	3129
Difference in Profit	2103	279	385	944	1139
	FY' 1997			FY' 1998	
Loan Extended (Birr)	85,853			336,436	
Loan Repayment***	69,724			309,013	
Percent		81%			84.3%

Note:

* Traditional farming is assumed to involve the use of local seeds but no fertilizer.

** Modern farming system combines improved seed with chemical fertilizer. In the above calculation, improved seed is available for wheat alone.

*** Repayment includes down payment.

As Table 1 shows, the repayment of loan extended for chemical fertilizer and seeds has increased in FY'98. However, the total amount of money un-returned in FY'98 is nearly four times as compared to FY'97. This may be attributable to either the inability of farmers to repay the credit or the weak follow up of service cooperatives to make their members repay the loan. Although a detailed study is required to substantiate why some farmers fail to pay their loans, one important reason may be that they could not finance the purchase of inorganic fertilizer or better seeds from their profit, especially those farmers who use fertilizer for teff and barley production.

The clear lesson FHI/Ethiopia has drawn from the above economic viability analysis has been that distribution of fertilizer should concentrate primarily on wheat and potato production. Better varieties of sorghum must also be made available to diversify existing varieties.

The second lesson FHI/Ethiopia learned last year was the need to deliver training to farmers in their locality. The previous experience of paying perdiems for farmers during training session - usually held at Woreda towns- has led to the selection of farmers who are not interested to apply the new skill. Often times, the focus has been on the perdiem, leading to less effectiveness of the training and the programs. In addition to decentralizing the delivery of training, FHI/Ethiopia plans to provide essential agricultural tools as incentives for farmers who learned and practiced new agricultural techniques.

Fodder Production and Natural Resource Management

The Amhara National Regional State (Region 3) has recently issued a directive over the management of communal lands. According to the directive, marginal lands or lands under forest cover will be divided among landless people to cultivate them and use the product. Each landless person will get 0.125 ha. The Peasant Administrations in collaboration with the Woreda Agriculture Office will be responsible to oversee the implementation of the directive. Although

this is a major policy shift in the right direction, it has nevertheless faced a great challenge from its beginning. Since the common lands are used by the farmers as grazing plots or to pen their cattle, there is a conflict of interest over handing them to private individuals. FHI/Ethiopia plans to work closely with the Woreda Agriculture Office and leaders of Peasant Administrations to resolve anticipated social conflicts in the implementation of the regulations.

Community Health

FHI/Ethiopia has been assisting the people of South Gondar to improve food utilization by promoting nutrition, health education, mother and child care programs. These programs are implemented in collaboration with Woreda Health Departments and voluntary community members. Although the program may have been effective in many ways in addressing key health problems, it lacks the necessary system to measure progresses towards expected changes. This is especially so in the field of nutrition where a systematic monitoring of the nutritional status of children is lacking. Inadequate information in this key development parameter has seriously affected the organization's readiness to respond to critical situations.

Recognizing the adverse effect of nutrition information, FHI/Ethiopia plans to initiate regular anthropometric surveys in FY'2000. Two surveys will be conducted in a year. Refresher training will be given to key health and agriculture staff prior to data collection and analysis.

Water and Sanitation

A survey made by FHI/Ethiopia in South Gondar shows that there are enormous potentials in the three Woredas to develop small water supply schemes to improve people's access to potable water. The study also indicates the active participation of communities in the execution of water supply schemes. Community contribution to water projects has been in the range of 15 to 30%. To increase the use of clean and potable water in the target communities, FHI/E feels the need to build project capacity to implement more water supply schemes.

Similarly, much needs to be done to improve household access to sanitary facilities. Currently, less than 1% of the people in the three target Woredas of South Gondar have access to latrines or waste disposal facilities. FHI/Ethiopia's focus in the past two years has been on awareness creation for environmental sanitation, personal hygiene and construction of washing and cattle troughs, communal latrines and showers. In FY'2000 emphasis will be given, in addition to the above, to building dry pit latrines and ventilated latrines by interested farmers.

Small Scale Irrigation

As a complementary input to the distribution of fertilizers and improved seeds, FHI/Ethiopia promotes the use of irrigation to increase yield on annual crops and vegetables. Traditional irrigation sites are upgraded to involve more households in the program as well as insure long term sustainability of the structure. However, because of the rugged terrain of Lay Gayint, Simada and Tach Gayint Woredas, building small scale irrigation structures is becoming a costly venture. Except the few sites selected for upgrading in FY'2000, FHI/E will shift the emphasis to low-cost schemes by using pumps (foot pumps, treadle pumps, ram and diesel pumps). The organization and management of low-cost schemes is easier and encourages more farmers to participate in irrigation programs. Experience in non-Title II program in West Showa zone indicate that these low-cost irrigation schemes have a greater chance of success among poor farmers.

Gender and Local Institution Development

The active participation of women in FHI/Ethiopia's development program has been underlined since a research study conducted in 1997 revealed that gender issues were not properly integrated in program implementation. To realize gender integration, the research recommended that "FHI/Ethiopia should sensitize its project and Addis staff on gender issues, maintain gender balance within the organization, and put a system to periodically monitor and evaluate gender integration in each project."[3]

A couple of workshops were organized in 1998 to increase the awareness of staff by employing a gender specialist. The expert is now working with the staff to develop a gender policy for FHI/Ethiopia together with a guideline of gender integration in program implementation. Activities that enhance women participation in the programs will be identified and implemented in FY'2000.

Local Institution Development (LID)

Community based local institutions are considered to be vital to attain food security objectives in FHI/Ethiopia project areas. Their role extends from mobilizing communities for development to managing and owning of development initiatives. Since these institutions are permanent, it is also essential to build their capacity. The task of identifying the right institutions for various initiative is, however, a challenge project staff are willing to face.

Currently, project sociologists are researching on existing grass roots organizations with the aim to assess their capacity as development partners. The purpose, organizational structure and internal dynamics of these institutions is being studied. The study is expected to come up with a plan of action to integrate them in the development process.

Experience to date invariably shows that using indigenous institutions such as *Edir*, *Equb* and *Senbetes*[4] to channel development resources as well as to initiate new projects has been effective in Simada project. These institutions proved to be capable of planning and designing new projects, mobilizing resources, monitoring implementation of planned activities. Capitalizing on these valuable experiences, attempts are being made to raise own resources to finance their development, and to provide limited support to implement some programs.

III. FY 2000 Detailed Implementation Plan

There is no significant variation in the implementation plan of FY 99 activities than what is shown in the DAP. The activities that will be identified and incorporated as the gender and local institution study progress will be implemented along with the other program components.

[3] FHI/E Gender Research, September 1997.

[4] *Edir* is basically established to comfort and help the family of the deceased, but has other social objectives. *Equb* is an economic association whereby each member receives cash or other resources in turn to help each other. *Senbete* (Sabbath day) is church based association where people come together to feast, observe the Sabbath and honor the word of God.

IV. FY 2000 Bellmon Analysis Update

A Bellmon Analyze for FY 2000 is currently being conducted for all Cooperating Sponsors. The results of the analysis are expected sometime in August, 1999. The following will serve as an abbreviated update until the complete Bellmon Analysis becomes available.

Ethiopia's 1998 Harvest

Rainfall distribution in the meher season was relatively good until most of the field crops reach fruition stage. This favorable situation led many people to forecast another good harvest, similar to the 1996 level. However, towards the end of the season the rain became excessive, thereby creating water logging around the roots of major crops or shattering the fruits. Making the situation even worse was the spread of malaria in the low and mid highland areas immediately after the rain ceased in late October and November. As a result, harvesting field crops was delayed, exposing crops to further loss due to wild animals and pests.

The Amhara National Regional State reported a 10% increase in production. However, inspite of the overall increase in the Region, there were localized food shortages such as in South Gondar. Out of the total estimated food requirement of nearly 4.6 million MT, the South Gondar zone was able to meet 66.7%[5]. The rest was filled through aid and commercial means.

Ethiopia's 1999 Belg Harvest

The belg rains were inadequate in many parts of the country. In Tigray, Amhara, parts of Oromia and Afar Region there was virtually no rainfall. The Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission has already estimated that 3.2 million people all over the country will need food assistance until the coming meher season.

The Agriculture Bureau of the Amhara National Regional State, in its recent report, indicated that out of the total hector of land expected to be covered with belg crops, only 19% was cultivated. The report further indicated that of the 19% those having supplemental irrigation will be successful to grow crops. The implication of all this is clear. Farmers in South Gondar will certainly unable to meet their food requirements for another year to come.

V. Revised Activity Resource Requirements

The activities in this PAA are not significantly different from the original DAP. Minor changes have been made in the area of training and organization of grass root development institutions. The renewed interest on community based development institutions as vehicles for sustainable development has led FHI/Ethiopia to consider upgrading their capacity through training and financial support. A separate activity plan is designed to meet the objective of empowering communities to manage their own development.

Gender and development is another area of focus for FHI/Ethiopia in FY'2000. The need to address the practical and long-term needs of women will be given adequate emphasis. In

[5] The production figure was taken from Zone Department of Agriculture. Food requirement was calculated on the basis of an estimated per capita consumption of 2.8 Quintals. The estimation was made by the Ethiopian Nutrition Research Institute.

addition, integrating gender issues in all FHI/Ethiopia's development interventions will be strengthened through sensitization training and seminar to the staff and community members. A Gender Policy for FHI/Ethiopia and a Guideline How to Integrate Gender into the Mainstreams of Development will be developed in the context of operation areas.

To improve the early warning system of FHI/Ethiopia and monitor the nutritional level of children and mothers, a regular survey will be conducted. It is believed that pre- and post harvest assessment of the nutritional status of children under 5 years will help to forecast emergency situations and respond accordingly. The study will also enable FHI/Ethiopia to assess the impact of its development interventions.

A. Financial Plan

B. Commodities

Appendix A - Environmental Status Report

Title of Activity: **Food for the Hungry International Development Project**

CS name/Country/Region: Food for the Hungry International/Ethiopia/East Africa

Funding Period: FY'1999 – FY'2001

Resource Levels: Commodities (dollar equivalent, incl. monetization): _____

Total metric tonnage request: _____
Section 202(e): _____
Proceeds from sale of empty containers: _____

Status Report Prepared by: Endalkachew Getaneh Title: Co-Director of Programmes
Date: June 5, 1999

Date of Previous Status Report: __NA_____

A. Status of the IEE/Categorical Exclusion/EA or PEA

IEE Reference: Date of most recent IEE or Categorical Exclusion (If all activities were Sys):
April 15, 1998

__X___ No revisions or modifications needed. IEE/CE or CE and all activities still applicable

_____ Amended IEE submitted, based on attached report, summary, etc., (referencing the body).

_____ EA or PEA needs to be amended to cover additional or modified activities. [Note: If yes, immediately notify the MEO, REO (where one exists) or the BHR BEO. Amend EA or PEA submitted, based on _____

B. Status of Fulfilling Conditions in the IEE, including Mitigative Measures and Monitoring

__ X____ Environmental Status Report describing compliance measures taken is attached.

_____ For any condition that cannot be satisfied, a course of remedial action has been provided within an IEE Amendment. [Note: For conditions under an EA or PEA, consult the MEO, REO (where one exists) and/or BEO].

USAID APPROVAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS REPORT:
Clearance:

Mission Environmental Officer: _____ Date: _____

Robin Mason

Food For Peace Officer: _____ Date: _____

Robert Wilson

C. Section A. Status of the IEE/Categorical Exclusion/EA or PEA

A1. Modified or New Activities:

All activities defined in the previous IEE submitted in April 1998 have remained unchanged. Some training, awareness creation and community organization activities are added into this PAA. These activities fall under the "Categorical Exclusion". With the current PAA, FHI will be replicating those activities in the same project areas observing the same mitigation and monitoring standards as spelled out in the IEE.

A2. Resolution of Deferrals:

The April 1998 IEE submitted by FHI had no deferrals. All activities had specific determinations, and those determinations have remained unchanged.

A3. Conditions:

None of the conditions have changed. FHI is currently implementing, or in the process of implementing, all the mitigations identified in the IEE.

A4. Amendments:

Based on the above, is an amended IEE needed?

____ Yes If yes, attach here. __X__ No

If the previous documentation was a Categorical Exclusion Submission, is an amended Categorical Exclusion needed to deal with new Categorical Exclusions for new activities?

____ Yes If yes, attach here. ___X__ No Not Applicable _____

Is the Sponsor unable to meet recommendations and/or conditions that are part of an EA or PEA or does the Sponsor believe an EA or PEA needs to be amended to cover additional or modified activities?

____ Yes _____ No Not Applicable __ X___

If yes, immediately notify the MEO, REO (where available) or the BHR BEO.

Section B. Status of Fulfilling Conditions in the IEE, including Mitigative Measures and Monitoring

B.1. Determinations and Mitigative Measures

The vast majority of FHI/Ethiopia's activities will have no effect on the environment. In some cases, the state of the local environment will actually improve due to FHI/Ethiopia's interventions. Nevertheless, measures are in place to ensure that any potential environmental damage is avoided or minimized.

Table 1: Categorical Exclusions

The following components were approved as Categorical Exclusions as per 216.2 (c)(2)(i) on the basis that the activities are training in nature and do not promote the use of pesticides. In addition monetization activities received a CE status as the activity does not have an effect on the natural or physical environment.

IR1 Agricultural Production:	Training of Farmers in improved agricultural practices Distribution of hand tools Introduction of improved threshing and grain storage methods Introduction of foot-powered irrigation pumps Introduction of improved sheep, chickens and beehives
IR4 Natural Resources Base Maintenance	Training of Farmers in conservation and reforestation

Table 2 listed below illustrates planned mitigation measures, as outlined in the IEE, in addition to monitoring activities presently being undertaken to ensure that sound environmental practices are in place.

Component	Mitigation Action	Monitoring
1.2.1.2 Provision of Improved seeds & fertilizer	The seeds are certified by the Institute of Agriculture Research (IAR) and Region 3 Agriculture Bureau for adaptability to the specific area. Farmers are trained in recommended use of fertilizer.	Agriculture Extension Workers (AEWs) under guidance from the Ag. Component Heads and in collaboration with farmers identify the right place to apply fertilizer. AEWs supervise and report to the Ag. Component Heads on the status every fortnight.
1.2.1.3 Provision of root crops	Farmers are trained in environmentally sound methods of root crop production that promote soil conservation. Root crops promoted are known varieties to the farmers	The Ag. Coordinators works closely with the Research Center in Region 3 to select appropriate varieties. The AEWs visit farmers growing root crops every week and report to the Coordinators.
1.2.1.8 Upgrading	A qualified engineer designs irrigation	Project Irrigation Engineers

of traditional irrigation structures	structures and associated channels that meet sound environmental standards. The irrigation structures are small scale (a maximum of 20 ha.) and users are trained in all aspects of irrigation and water management.	establish Water User's Associations and provide regular training to members. Extension Workers work together with farmers to avoid environmental damage. Site specific reports are forwarded to respective Engineers on a monthly basis.
1.2.1.9 Provision of coffee seedlings and other cash crops	Seedlings are produced in nurseries whose locations avoid natural forests and uncleared shrub land. Coffee seedlings and other cash crops are provided to farmers who intercrop with cereals and other crops that complement each other. Farmers planting coffee practice improved conservation activities on their fields.	Appropriate coffee planting fields are selected by AEWs after farmers applied for seedlings. Qualified farmers are provided with training before planting. Performance of seedlings are monitored and reported to the Ag. Component Heads every fortnight.
1.2.3.4 Maintenance and furnishing of schools	Construction materials for repair and maintenance are obtained from local sources approved by the Regional Government. Material such as timber is replaced by planting more trees.	The Project Engineer works closely with the contractor to avoid environmental damage as a result of school repair.
1.2.3.5 Health Post Construction	The construction materials are available from local sources. The project engineer selects appropriate sites and supervise the construction work. Plastic bags and medical waste materials are properly disposed of through burial away from water sites.	The project engineer selects sites using sound environmental criteria. A contractor uses the design made available by the engineer to construct the health post. Regular supervision is made by the engineer.
1.2.3.6–8 Construction of hand dug wells, capping springs,cattle troughs, cloth washing basins and latrines	The construction of different water schemes takes into consideration the acquatic habitats, drainage of excess flow to avoid standing water, and possibility of depletion of water sources. Latrines are located far from water sources to avoid contamination.	Using environment related criteria, small scale water supply schemes are identified by the Water & sanitation engineer. Design of water supply schemes takes into consideration the relevant factors.
1.2.4.2 –7 Hillside, farm terrace, cut-off drains, micro-basin, and checkdam construction	These activities conducted according to technical norms provided in "Guidelines for Soil Conservation in Ethiopia."	Supervisors directly monitor the implementation of these activities. Site selection is made using developed criteria for each activities. Environmental status after implementation is examined with project conservationist.
1.2.4.8 Work site access road/truck construction	Grass planted on the shoulders and slopes where the potential for erosion exists. Manual labour used to minimize dust and noise and reduce dependence on	Standards from the Ethiopian Road Authority are followed for construction. Supervisors work with the community to

	machinery. Hand tool such as picks, shovels, and crowbars are used during construction. Project engineers make the road alignments and control the construction process.	ensure that environmental factors are considered during implementation. The supervisors report on maters pertaining to environmental issues before and after the construction.

B.2 Compliance with Mitigation Measures and Alterations Made

Mitigation measures outlined in the original IEE were adhered to during FY 1999. In addition, alteration was made to protect irrigation schemes from possible damages triggered by soil erosion. The construction of checkdams, terracing and other soil conservation structures along the banks of rivers is found to be helpful in preventing the transportation of soil and boulder that may damage the irrigation structure.

B.2.1. Crop Productivity and Diversification Component

Activities that require mitigative actions in this component include the distribution of agricultural inputs such as fertilizer, improved seeds, root crops, coffee and other cash crops as well as the upgrading of traditional irrigation structures. With regard to the administration of inputs, the following mitigative actions were strictly implemented during the year:

- Seeds that are introduced to the farmers are either known varieties or the Local Agriculture Office verified their appropriateness to the weather conditions and soil type. FHI/Ethiopia works closely with the Local Agriculture Office and the Adet Research Center to select the right varieties of improved wheat, sorghum and teff after tests are made on their performance. The result of the performance will then be communicated to the Extension Workers together with the rate of application and the required care. Agriculture Extension Workers, in turn, teach farmers (often using demonstration sites) that are established by the Local Agriculture Office. Depending on the type of the crop to be introduced, voluntary farmers' plots are used to grow crops for demonstration.

- Agriculture Extension Workers supervise activities such as land preparation, sowing and weeding on a regular basis and as per the stated recommendations. Experts from the Local Agriculture Office and FHI/Ethiopia monitor the work of the AEWs through field visits and reports. Anything found to have significant effect on the environment is discussed among the partners and a joint solution is sought out.

- Recommended use of fertilizer for different localities is already available in the Office of Agriculture. Each AEW has a copy of this report which, in addition, contains instructions on the right place to apply fertilizer to avoid contamination of surface water or what cares should be made while using fertilizer. Farmers are already aware of the technique of fertilizer application and the key steps to avoid environmental damage as a result of using fertilizer.

The upgrading of traditional irrigation structures involves different intervention techniques in order to diminish adverse environmental effects. In addition to the training on water management, drainage and related health issues provided to irrigation water users, the need to treat critical areas within the catchment was prominent. In FY'99, there was siltation problem in two of the irrigation sites. Although this was not un-anticipated situation, FHI/Ethiopia realized that the problem could have been avoided through the construction of conservation structures along the river banks and in different parts of the catchment area. The integration of upgrading traditional structures with physical conservation works is found to mitigate significant soil erosion and adverse environmental effects.

B.2.2 Fodder Production and Natural Resources Management

Different fodder species are raised in nursery sites that are located closer to water sources. The use of water in these nursery sites do not stifle with the needs of either down stream users or deplete available sources. Known fodder trees such as suspania and tree lucer are highly demanded by the community. Community fodder plantation sites are identified and selected by leaders of the community and experts from FHI/Ethiopia and the Local Agriculture Office. Planting of these trees serves two purposes. First, the trees fix nitrogen into the soil, thereby improving the productivity. Second, the leaves from these trees are eaten by livestock, thereby meeting the dire need of animal feed.

FHI/Ethiopia has six nursery technicians trained in plant management. These technicians assess the need for different trees by the community for communal and backyard plantation. They also conduct preliminary assessment of environmental effects of different trees and use the data to teach farmers. The project forester makes regular monitoring and updating of these technicians with current information. Helping the project forester and the nursery technicians in the area of conservation supervision are the FFW supervisors. These individuals have dual responsibilities while physical conservation activities or plantations are taking place. They demonstrate what needs to be done (e.g. a checkdam, terrace, roads, etc) to the FFW participants by taking into consideration environmental parameters. They also supervise the work of each group of participants, keep record of attendance and report to the Conservationist/forester. Depending on the significance of the environmental effect anticipated as a result of the work being done, the conservationist/forester is involved in the design and supervision.

B.2.3 Community Health and Water Supply Component

The construction of health posts, latrines, water wells, washing troughs and disposal of medical waste are the key activities that need mitigative measures in community health and water programs. The construction site for health posts is selected by the project engineer and other engineers from the Ministry of Works and Urban Development. These engineers takes into consideration environmental factors in the selection of proper sites. The technical design and blue prints of the building is obtained from the Department of Health. Contractors are invited for a bid on the basis of specifications already in place by the Health Department. The responsibility of supervision during construction rests on the project engineer with periodic visit from the Ministry of Urban Development.

To avoid adverse environmental effects as result of disposing medical waste, a pit is dug in the compound of each health post. All disposable items are buried and set fire everyday. A Sanitarian is assigned by the Health Department to plan and supervise the implementation of community based sanitary activities. This person is responsible to oversee the safe disposal of environmentally dangerous materials.

The planning and implementation of water supply facilities is jointly done by project water technicians, experts from the Ministry of Mines and Energy and the community. FHI/Ethiopia's water technicians have long years of experience in identifying water sources that could be developed for the community. These technicians are very much aware of the adverse environmental effects that are likely to occur due to digging wells or capping springs or constructing washing basins. In designing these schemes they take into account these factors. At the completion of the water or sanitation project, the technicians and the community evaluate the schemes for their environmental impact and make modification when deemed necessary.

Appendix B - Certification Regarding Lobbying Form

Appendix C - Agreements, Contracts, Letters

Appendix D - Bellmon Analysis Update